

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06417 100952Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /082 W

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P R 091507Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8528

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E A U T I A L TEL AVIV 6417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJ: RABIN AND PERES ON NEXT STEPS WITH SYRIA

1. RABIN AND PERES, IN SEPARATE MEETINGS THIS WEEK WITH DELEGATION FROM BRITISH ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES, DISCUSSED THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS WITH SYRIA. FSO AMERICAN STUDENT (CRUMP) GAVE US FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS.

2. RABIN TOLD RCDS GROUP THAT WAY MUST BE FOUND TO GIVE SYRIA SOME MEANINGFUL OPTIONS. IN HIS VIEW, THE SYRIANS HAVE REJECTED THE MILITARY OPTION; TO ISSUSTRATE THIS, HE NOTED THAT SINCE SIGNING DIS-ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THEY HAVE NOT ALLOWED PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS TO MAKE INCURSIONS INTO ISRAEL THROUGH THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. HE THEN SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO PREVENT THE START OF POLITICAL TALKS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL SINCE THESE COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY UNDER U.S. AUSPICES, WHICH WOULD MEAN ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR THE SOVIETS. THE SYRIANS HAVE NOT DECIDED WHAT TO DO, BUT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE AN APPROACH TO THE U.S. SOME TIME NEAR THE END OF OCTOBER TO SEE WHAT MIGHT

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06417 100952Z

BE THE TOPICS FOR POLITICAL TALKS. THE QUESTION THEN

WOULD BE WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD RISK FRESH TENSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ARISING FROM NEW U.S. MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING, PERES WAS ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT ISRAEL WAS CONSIDERING A UNILATERAL GESTURE ON THE GOLAN SHORTLY BEFORE EXPIRATION OF UNDOF MANDATE. APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY QUESTION, PERES REPLIED THAT, IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE, CONSIDERATION OF ANY SUCH GESTURE HAD TO BE KEPT SECRET. HE ADDED THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN ANY CABINET DECISION. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, SUCH A GESTURE WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED IN ADVANCE (PRESUMABLY WITH U.S. AND SYRIA). THE PURPOSE OF A UNILATERAL ISRAELI GESTURE WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE THE SYRIANS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD PROBABLY MAKE SOME MOVE, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE MINOR IN NATURE AND DIFFERENT FROM THE UNILATERAL GESTURE IT MADE IN SINAI EARLIER THIS YEAR.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, RABIN TOLD AUDIENCE IN TEL AVIV OCT 8 THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL PREPARATIONS FOR NOV 30 EXPIRATION OF UNDOF MANDATE. THE SYRIAN DECISION WILL HAVE IMPORTANT MILITARY IMPLICATIONS TO WHICH ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO REACT PROPERLY. ANY THREAT IN THE NORTH, RABIN SAID, WILL INVOLVE A PROBLEM OF "TANKS, PLANES, AND TROOPS. THE ROLE OF THE SETTLEMENTS THERE WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANT".

5. COMMENT: DISPARITY BETWEEN TENOR OF RABIN'S PRIVATE REMARKS TO RCDS GROUP AND HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SYRIAN MILITARY OPTION IS STRIKING. PUBLIC STATEMENT SEEMS DESIGNED TO ASSURE ISRAELIS THAT IDF WILL BE PREPARED FOR ALL CONTINGENCIES, AND TO SIGNAL SAME MESSAGE TO SYRIANS. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE FACT THAT RABIN HAS A COALITION TO HOLD TOGETHER AND THE WIDESPREAD UNEASE IN ISRAEL AS TO WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN "UP THERE ON THE HEIGHTS". ON THE OTHER HAND, IF CORRECTLY REPORTED BOTH RABIN'S AND PERES' COMMENTS TO THE RCDS--A FOREIGN AUDIENCE--SEEM TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 06417 100952Z

AIMED AT GETTING ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT ISRAEL IS LOOKING FOR, INDEED EXPECTS, FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THE POLITICAL FRONT. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RABIN AND PERES ON NEXT STEPS WITH SYRIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, SY, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (PERES, SHIMON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006